

AGENDA # 1

City of Madison, Wisconsin

REPORT OF: URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION

PRESENTED: January 16, 2019

TITLE: 316 W. Washington Avenue – New
Outdoor Seating Shade Structure for RED
Sushi Located in the Downtown Core
District. 4th Ald. Dist. (54134)

REFERRED:

REREFERRED:

REPORTED BACK:

AUTHOR: Janine Glaeser, Secretary

ADOPTED:

POF:

DATED: January 16, 2019

ID NUMBER:

Members present were: Richard Wagner, Chair; Lois Braun-Oddo, Cliff Goodhart, Craig Weisensel, Jessica Klehr, Amanda Hall and Christian Harper.

SUMMARY:

At its meeting of January 16, 2019, the Urban Design Commission **GRANTED FINAL APPROVAL** of an outdoor seating shade structure located at 316 W. Washington Avenue. Registered in support of the project were Matthew Tills, representing Red Dine Lounge; Tatsiana Zkykhareviel, representing 316 W. Washington Avenue; and Lori Grapentine. The restaurant owner talked about the structure and the ambience it will add to the neighborhood, described how the shades operate and complimented the architect. Grapentine spoke in support, noting that RED has made nice additions to the area with their planters, heaters and outdoor seating area. She questioned how the structure provides shade, and how speakers might be involved for amplified music; she has concerns with precedent with other businesses on West Washington Avenue. Tills talked about the prefabricated canopy structure chosen for the sleek, proprietary mechanism used to open the shades. When you reach the time of day that heat builds up, the building itself provides shade. This will provide some sun protection as well as shelter from rain. They are working with an acoustic consultant to position speakers on the structure that are aimed primarily at the seating, with the volume low. Because the music will be played inside this covered “nook,” the restaurant owner is not concerned that it will be disruptive to the neighborhood.

- I was at your restaurant recently but the music did not enhance it at all. The atmosphere, the food is all fine, but I fail to see why any outdoor eating area needs music. You have street noise, people and then you’re competing and driving the volume of people trying to talk over the music, and they’re not there for the music.
 - It’s different when you’re outside in the courtyard versus in the restaurant. Providing some subtle music in that space will make a difference.
- There are some larger issues here. Maybe we approve this while asking the ALRC to consider the issue of amplified music for this area with continued jurisdiction if problems arise in the future. Or maybe it’s where you place the speakers.
- Speakers have volume control, and it depends on what type of music will be playing. Is the issue the level of decibels? Soft background music does go away. We can’t dictate volume.
- I believe one of our ordinances addresses decibel levels at the property line.

ACTION:

On a motion by Braun-Oddo, seconded by Weisensel, the Urban Design Commission **GRANTED FINAL APPROVAL**. The motion was passed on a vote of (6-0). The applicant shall follow City ordinance relative to noise decibels.